

8th Air Force



Safety Gram

Accident Pyramid



June 2007

Look Out!

BOATING And Water Safety



There are nearly 12 million registered boats in the United States, 95 percent of which are less than 26 feet in length. **These same boats account for as many as 80 percent of the underwater impact injuries in which people in the water are struck by a boat or its propeller.** The majority of these accidents are the result of operator error, making them one of the most preventable of all types of boating accidents. While boat or propeller strike accidents are relatively few in number, as compared to other types of boating accidents, some of them are severe and have tragic consequences...

Operator inexperience, incompetence, negligence and intoxication are significant contributing factors in reported boat and propeller strikes, as well as in all other types of boating accidents. In almost all cases, the victim is in the water -- a swimmer, scuba diver, fallen water skier or the operator or a passenger.



The NTSB reports half of boating accidents involve personal watercraft! Like the one pictured below.



Investigators found that only 16 percent of users ever received any instruction on how to pilot the powerful, highly-maneuverable machines. The NTSB says an overwhelming number of accidents involve inexperienced users; **48 percent were riding for only the first or second time.**

Tips for Safe Boating

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Avoid alcohol.
- Be especially careful on personal watercrafts.
- Children younger than age 13 must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway.
- Enroll in a boater education class.
- Don't overload your boat.
- Operate at a safe speed.
- Always have a passenger serve as a lookout in addition to the operator.
- Watch out for low water areas or submerged objects.

Boating Fatalities

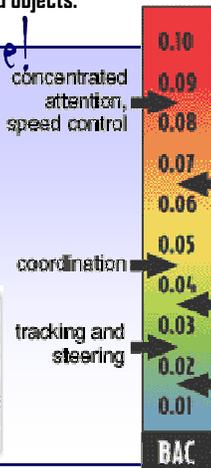


Type of Accidents 50% Alcohol Related

Boating Under The Influence!

Although laws vary from state to state, here are some typical results!

- Could face fines of up to \$6,250 and up to a year in jail.
- Must complete a boating safety class.
- Lose his or her boat operation privileges for one year.
- Have boat registrations suspended for up to three years.



Don't drink and boat!



Water Skiing Safety Tips

Do not take unnecessary risks while water-skiing. Know your limitations. If you are new to skiing try each new skill one at a time. Become proficient and then move on to the next skill.

- The towline should be at least 75 feet long.
- Have an observer in the tow boat at all times. The boat driver cannot drive the boat and watch the skier at the same time.
- The driver should use a rear view mirror.
- Skier should wear a Coast Guard approved PFD designed for water-skiing. This also goes for the driver and observer too. Think about it. If you are injured staying afloat is kind of important. While it is not, as a rule a good idea, the driver and or the observer may need to get into the water to help you. Would you rather be helped by a buoyant friend or a heavier than water ex-friend?
- Never ski in rough water.
- Stay clear of congested areas. A crowded beach is not a good place to ski. Docks and bridges hurt when skiers hit them so it's a good idea to steer clear Mr. Driver!
- Do not ski at night. It's dumb and illegal.
- NO ALCOHOL**, the skier, driver or observer. Save it for the party later in the day.

The Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is the most important piece of equipment you have when you're on the water!



Find the one that's right for you and your family, and most importantly, wear them.



Think Safety First!

You bought a really nice boat and you're all set for an enjoyable day of fishing.....

But are you really set? Think Safety First

